CENWS-OD-TS-DM

MEMORANDUM FOR: RECORD **September 26, 2003**

SUBJECT: DETERMINATION ON THE **RANKING** OF THE FEDERAL NAVIGATION CHANNEL IN THE **DUWAMISH RIVER**, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, BETWEEN STATIONS 254 AND 257+35.

1. Introduction. The following summary reflects the consensus determination of the Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) Agencies' (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Ecology, Department of Natural Resources, and the Environmental Protection Agency) with jurisdiction on dredging and disposal on the suitability of dredged material from the **Duwamish River Navigation Channel**, Seattle, Washington for unconfined open-water disposal at the Elliott Bay open-water disposal site or at an approved beneficial use site.

2. Background. The upstream end of the Duwamish River Navigation channel, including the Turning Basin and a portion of the adjacent channel, is the only area of the federally authorized channel that is frequently and consistently dredged. This area is ranked "low-moderate" by the DMMP agencies, based on several rounds of previous testing, though areas of the Duwamish downstream of the turning basin area are ranked "high." Review of previous documentation for this project has found a discrepancy in ranking of the area between Station 254 and 257+35. This memo documents a coordinated ranking review of the Duwamish River Navigation Channel.

3. Ranking Evaluation. The 1996 SDM determined that the border between the high and low-moderate ranked areas was at Station 257+35, based on two rounds of previous testing. The 1998 SDM considered the material low-ranked downstream to Station 254. A review of the data in the channel area between Stations 254 and 257+35 showed that samples "S1" and "S2" taken in this area in 1996 showed one exceedance of an SL for indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene (97 µg/kg dry wt) in S1, but the sediment passed bioassay tests and was found suitable for open-water disposal. The SL for this chemical was subsequently raised in 1998, from 69 µg/kg dry wt. to 600 µg/kg dry wt. In the 1998 characterization one sample from this interval between Stations 254 and 257+35 was composited with another from the low-moderate area to form composite C1. That composite showed no detected or undetected exceedances of any DMMP SLs, passed concurrent bioassay tests, and was found suitable for open water disposal. Based on these two rounds of sampling, the DMMP agencies concur that the entire proposed project area, from Station 254 to the upstream end of the navigation channel, should be considered to have a low-moderate ranking.

Concur:

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Date

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